

State of California
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin Region

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

Thursday, January 19, 2012, 9:00 a.m.
Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin Region
Board Room
73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, was called to order by Chair Ellen Way at 9:07 a.m. on January 19, 2012 at Palm Desert, California.

Roll Call (Board Members Only)

Board Members Present:

Buford Crites, Tom Davis, Jeff Hays, Edward Muzik, Ellen Way.

The Board Secretary stated that a quorum was present.

Staff Present:

Jose Angel, Terry Barnes, John Carmona, Mary Castañeda, Jose Cortez, Kai Dunn, Roselyn Fleming, Abdi Haile, Herb Jackson, Robert Perdue, Nadim Shukry-Zeywar, Jennie Snyder, Joan Stormo, Doug Wylie.

Others Present:

Steve Bigley, Coachella Valley Water District
Ron Derma, BWD
Roger Greaves, BMCD
Jurg Heuberger, ES
Jennifer Henke, Coachella Valley Mosquito Vector Control District
Carrie McLeod, USDA RD
Michael Pollack, GSWC
David Saunders, Palo Verde Irrigation District
Ed Smith, Palo Verde Irrigation District
Bob Stadum, Hi-Desert Water District
Charles VanDyke, Palo Verde Irrigation District
Tom Vandenberg, State Water Board, Office of the Chief Counsel
Elizabeth Varin, Imperial Valley Press

MINUTES

1. Minutes of November 17, 2011 Board Meeting

MOTION: Buford Crites moved, Tom Davis seconded, and motion carried unanimously that the Minutes be adopted.

PUBLIC FORUM

2. No Public comment.

UNCONTESTED NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMITS AND WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS

3. R7-2012-0001 Waste Discharge Requirements for **Palm Springs Unified School District**, Owner/Operator Rancho Mirage High School Cooling Towers, City of Rancho Mirage – Riverside County

MOTION: Jeff Hays moved, Ed Muzik seconded, and motion carried unanimously that Order No. R7-2012-0001 be adopted.

4. R7-2012-0003 Waste Discharge Requirements for **Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.**, Owner/Operator Store 1915-04 Wastewater Treatment Plant, Town of Yucca Valley – San Bernardino County

MOTION: Jeff Hays moved, Ed Muzik seconded, and motion carried unanimously that Order No. R7-2012-0003 be adopted.

5. R7-2012-0004 Waste Discharge Requirements for **Imperial Valley Cheese of California**, (Owner/Operator) Cheese Plant and Irrigation Fields, El Centro – Imperial County

MOTION: R7-2012-0004 was pulled and is to be considered at a future Board Meeting.

6. R7-2012-0005 Waste Discharge Requirements for **Hudson Ranch Power II, LLC**, Owner Engh Farms Geothermal Exploration Project Wellfield Mud Sumps/Containment Basins, Southwest of Niland – Imperial County

MOTION: Jeff Hays moved, Ed Muzik seconded, and motion carried unanimously that Order No. R7-2012-0005 be adopted.

7. R7-2012-0006 Waste Discharge Requirements for **Hi-Desert Memorial Health Care District**, Land Owner Joshua Basin Water District, Owner/Operator Hi-Desert Medical Center Wastewater Treatment Facility, City of Joshua Tree – San Bernardino County

MOTION: Jeff Hays moved, Ed Muzik seconded, and motion carried unanimously that Order No. R7-2012-0006 be adopted.

RESOLUTION

8. R7-2012-0007 Resolution No. R7-2012-0007, **Expressing Appreciation to Maurice “Red” Martinez.**

MOTION: Buford Crites moved, Tom Davis seconded, and motion carried unanimously that Order No. R7-2012-0007 be adopted.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

9. The election of the Board Chair and Vice-Chair, 2012.

MOTION: Ed Muzik moved, Tom Davis seconded. The motion carried that Ellen Way was re-elected as Chair. Buford Crites moved, Ed Muzik seconded. The motion carried that Jeff Hays was re-elected as Vice Chair of the Regional Board.

OTHER BUSINESS

10. Informational Update on Palo Verde Agricultural Wastewater Discharges Prohibition Basin Plan Amendment – RP

Robert Perdue, Executive Officer, discussed the State Water Board’s disapproval of the subject Basin Plan Amendment at its January 10, 2012 public meeting. Mr. Perdue explained that pursuant to Resolution No. 2012-0004, the State Water Board remanded the amendment back to the Regional Water Board, and directed Regional Board 7 to adopt Waste Discharge Requirements or a Waiver of same in lieu of, or in addition to, its proposed conditional prohibition for agricultural waste water discharges. He also pointed out that the Resolution directed State Water Board staff: (1) to work with all regional water quality control boards to ensure that fees for agricultural wastewater discharges are consistent throughout the State; and (2) to propose any appropriate amendments to the Nonpoint Source Policy to reflect current funding mechanisms for regulation of nonpoint source wastewater discharges, which includes agricultural wastewater discharges. The Board Members discussed the various options for Regional action and requested staff bring the item back at the next Meeting for further discussion.

11. Informational Update on Conventional and Advanced Wastewater Treatment – JC

John Carmona provided an overview of conventional and tertiary wastewater treatment. He explained the different treatment processes used to separate solids from the liquid waste streams.

Beginning with preliminary treatment, which involves screening and removal of grit, to primary treatment, which removes settleable and floatable solids, and then to secondary treatment, which involves biological activity and clarification to further separate the solids from the liquid wastewater stream. After these processes, wastewater discharged is considered secondary treated effluent.

Most facilities within our Regional Water Board boundary utilize secondary treatment with disinfection. The treated effluent is discharged to either percolation ponds or surface waters.

Tertiary treatment involves taking the secondary treated effluent and adding process units that include chemical coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, filtration and disinfection. Use of tertiary treated effluent is used for irrigation of some of the Coachella Valley golf courses and home owner association green areas.

12. Informational Update on State Water Resources Control Board Activities — TV

(See hand-out)

13. Colorado River Basin Water Board Executive Officer's Report — RP

Mr. Perdue, at the behest of Board Member Tom Davis, described the potential impact of the Governor's budget proposal to merge Regional Board 7 with Regional Board 6 and/or Regional Board 9. The Executive Officer stated that there have been numerous proposals over the last twenty years to alter the structure of the Regional Boards, including cutting the number of Board Members from 9 to 7, due to the difficulty of having to continually appoint members. Additionally, since Regional Board 7 had the smallest population within its boundaries, eliminating or combining Regional Board 7 with other Boards has been proposed numerous times. He added that if a merger were to take place, most likely Regional Board 7 and the staff would become part of a branch office without a separate Board or Executive Officer.

14. Colorado River Basin Water Board Member Comments

Mr. Muzik attended a meeting concerning the Cadiz Valley Water Conservation, Recovery, and Storage Project. The Project initially would extract groundwater from Jenner Valley, near Cadiz in San Bernardino County. The extracted water would be transported via a new 40 mile pipeline feeding into the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) distribution system. At some point in the future, the pipeline

could be used to transport water back from the MWD system for injection and storage in the Jenner Valley aquifer.

Mr. Davis pointed out the SWRCB Executive Director had discussed the Aquifer Storage and Recovery Policy issue at the recent Water Quality Coordinating Committee in Sacramento. Mr. Perdue said that development of a state wide policy was on-going with Regional Board 5 acting as lead.

15. Colorado River Basin Water Board Chair's Report — EW

The Chair submitted a letter to the SWRCB strongly recommending approval of Regional Board 7's unanimously adopted Palo Verde Agricultural Waste Water Discharge Prohibition Basin Plan Amendment.

CLOSED SESSION

16. At any time during the regular session, the Board may adjourn to meet in closed session to consider evidence received in an adjudicatory hearing and deliberate on a decision to be reached based on that evidence [Authority: Government Code Section 11126(c)(3)]; to discuss significant exposure to litigation [Authority: Government Code Section 11126(e)(2)(B)(i)]; to discuss whether to initiate litigation [Authority: Government Code Section 11126(e)(2)(C)(i)]; or to discuss initiated litigation [Authority: Government Code Section 11126(e)]. Discussion of litigation is within the attorney-client privilege and may be held in closed session [Authority: Government Code Section 11126(e)(2)].

No closed session items were discussed.

**ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEXT BOARD MEETING: Thursday, March 15, 2012,
9:00 a.m., in Palm Desert**

Adjournment: 11:23 a.m.

MOTION: Jeff Hays moved, Buford Crites seconded, and motion carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.